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## REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee  
on the draft Council decision on the dates for holding  
the 1989 elections to the European Parliament  
(Doc. C 2-79/88)

Rapporteur: Mr E. A. KLEPSCH

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- A Series: Reports - B series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions, Written Declarations, etc. - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)
- |                |   |                 |  |
|----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <div>★</div>   | = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading | <div>★★II</div> | = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of the majority of the Members of Parliament |
| <div>★★I</div> | = Cooperation procedure (first reading)             | <div>★★★</div>  | = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of the majority of the current Members of Parliament           |



By letter of 16 June 1988 the President of the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 10(2) of the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of its Members by direct universal suffrage, on the holding of the next elections from 15 to 18 June 1989.

At the part-session held in July 1988, the President of Parliament referred this proposal to the Political Affairs Committee as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 22-24 June 1988, the Political Affairs Committee appointed Mr Klepsch rapporteur and on 24 June 1988 adopted the motion for a resolution by 17 votes to 0 with 5 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Ercini, Chairman; Mr Klepsch, rapporteur; Mr Antoniozzi, Mr Barros Moura (deputizing for Mr Ephremidis), Mr Boutos, Mr Christensen (deputizing for Mr van der Lek), Mr Condesso (deputizing for Mr Santana Lopes), Mr Flanagan, Mr Ford, Mr Fraga Iribarne, Mr Habsburg, Mr Newens, Mr Pimenta (deputizing for Mr Bettiza), Mr Plaskovitis, Mr Prag (deputizing for Lord Bethell), Mr Seefeld, Mr Sutra de Germa (deputizing for Mrs Charzat), Mr Toksvig, Mr von Uezküll, Mr Vergeer (deputizing for Mr Penders), Mr Welsh and Mr Wholfart.

The report was tabled on 28 June 1988.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

A

#### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the draft Council decision on the dates for holding the 1989 elections to the European Parliament

The European Parliament,

- having been consulted by the Council by letter of 16 June 1988, pursuant to Article 10(2) of the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of its Members by direct universal suffrage, on the holding of the next elections from 15 to 18 June 1988 (Doc. C 2-79/88),
  - having regard to its resolution of 13 April 1988(1),
  - having regard to the report of its Political Affairs Committee (Doc. A 2-138/88),
- A. whereas its selection of the period from 8 to 11 June 1989 for the next European elections is in conformity with the provisions of Article 10 of the Act of 20 September 1976,
- B. whereas these dates cannot therefore be changed by the Council acting unanimously except where it proves impossible to hold the elections on those dates and after consulting the European Parliament,
1. Notes that although the difficulties that the Council sees in holding the elections from 8 to 11 June 1989 - which Parliament has not overlooked - are genuine, they do not make it impossible to hold the elections during that period;
  2. Notes that the period 15 to 18 June 1989, on which it has been consulted, poses problems of a similar nature for another Member State;
  3. Stresses that, where it is not impossible to hold the elections during the period referred to in Article 10(2) of the Act of 20 September 1976, that period is mandatory and it is incumbent on all the Member States to set a date for the elections within that period;
  4. Calls on the Council not to change the date of the elections prescribed by the application of Article 10 of the Act of 20 September 1976 and, should it intend to depart from this opinion, calls for the conciliation procedure to be opened before any decision is taken;
  5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and, for information, to the Commission and the national parliaments.

(1) KLEPSCH report, Doc. A 2-27/88 - OJ No. C 122, 9.5.1988

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In adopting its resolution of 13 April 1988 on the basis of the report drawn up by its Political Affairs Committee(1), the European Parliament chose to revert to the period laid down in Article 10 of the Act of 20 September 1976, which had been changed by a unanimous decision of the Council in 1984 during the second direct elections.

The European Parliament was aware of the difficulties involved in holding the elections during the period dictated by this choice, i.e. from 8 to 11 June 1989, - which the Council also set out in its letter of 16 June 1988 (see Annex) - but it considered that they did not make it impossible to hold the elections during that period and that the other periods under consideration, in particular 15 to 18 June 1989 on which Parliament has been consulted, also posed problems of a similar nature.

The obvious choice therefore is the period of 8 to 11 June 1989 both for institutional reasons and to facilitate the organization of the next elections.

There are insufficient grounds for the Council's intention to change these dates (which is the logical interpretation of the request for consultation on a different period from that proposed by the European Parliament) in that there is no evidence whatever that it is impossible to hold the elections on the dates concerned. There is also a risk of institutionalizing a different period from that prescribed by the strict application of the Act of 20 September 1976.

In submitting this report, the Political Affairs Committee recommends that the European Parliament should request the Council not to make any changes to the period in question and that, should it intend to do so, to consult the European Parliament beforehand through the conciliation procedure.

It is imperative on a matter of this importance which goes beyond the letter of the Treaties that the European Parliament's opinion should be given the greatest possible consideration.

Copy to: Mr Enrico VINCI, Secretary-General

COUNCIL  
OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
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The President

Brussels, 16. VI. 1988

"ENGLISH VERSION"

Lord PLUMB  
President of the European  
Parliament  
Case Postale 1601  
LUXEMBOURG

016 375

016 376

Sir,

At its meeting on 24 and 25 May 1988, the Council examined the question of the period during which elections of Members of the European Parliament should be held in 1989.

Under the first subparagraph of Article 10(2) of the Act of 20 September 1976, these elections should be held during the period from 8 to 11 June 1989.

It has, however, turned out to be impossible to hold elections in the Community during that period owing to the fact that it coincides with a long holiday period in Portugal and owing to the deadlines to be met in Greece, which is organizing its national legislative elections at the same time. For this reason the Council has, in accordance with the second subparagraph of the aforementioned Article 10(2), been considering another period in which the elections could be held, and has agreed to consult the European Parliament on the possibility of fixing at 15 to 18 June 1989 the period for such elections.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

H.D. GENSCHER

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